



THE FENCE BUILDER

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REALLY!

Fun vs Dignity - The new 'human right'??

1. The quantity of heroin seized [Europe] in 2012 (5 tonnes) was the lowest reported in the last decade, and equivalent to only half of the quantity seized in 2002 (10 tonnes).¹

2. In 2013, 81 new psychoactive substances were notified to the EU Early Warning System, bringing the number of substances monitored to more than 350.²

3. 'In 2010, Colorado state law was changed to permit commercial production and distribution of medical marijuana. The number of registrants (both adults and children) grew rapidly— from 4819 in December 2008 to 115,467 in December 2014— and medical-marijuana dispensaries proliferated. (Remember this was all before it was then legalised for 'recreational use'!)³

4. Australia Crime Commission Report: The number of illicit drug seizures and arrests are the highest on record—The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) border detections and ATS national seizures are the highest on record—The number of steroid seizures and arrests are the highest on record ⁴
(Supply Reduction Strategies paying off)

There's a conversation that still remains fresh in my mind; one I had with an Indigenous AOD worker in W.A some years ago. Why did this stick? I think it was the surprising response I got after a long disclosure she made about a handful of recent teenage 'graduates' from a rehabilitation process. These mid teens ended up in rehab after early introduction to alcohol escalated quickly to cannabis and then Meth use. Finally when their lives were ruined, they ended up in State care and actually got their lives back to some semblance of order.

I remember the worker told me that the new 'goal setting' exercise of these now later teens, had produced new 'giddy' aims, such as learning to wash clothes, and clean their teeth properly. This sobering recount drew from me the remark that there was just no upside to drug use!

It's what came out of her mouth next that seared this event in my memory. She simply said, and with some glee... **"WHAT ABOUT FUN!"**

It is fascinating to watch the ever increasing entourage of carefully crafted 'investigations' into drug use, that cleverly acknowledge drug use as ostensibly a 'symptom', working then to dexterously negate the need to diminish both use and access to this 'symptom' - drugs.

Drug use is indeed a symptom of a much larger societal malaise, but it does create one hell of a maelstrom! It's this vortex that gets all the press, and depending on who is 'running' the media, will interpret the data according to their consensus manufacturing agenda.

A couple of questions we always ask audiences at the start of our RESILIENCY Education (AOD) Seminars is; **Does anyone one here**

believe their children or grandchildren will be better off on drugs? Secondly; will any of them be better off with easier access to drugs? The answers are always a unanimous... NONE!

Then we journey into the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme. This children's rhyme is an incredible snapshot of current post-modern culture. What this short poem does quite effectively is to ask tough questions of a culture that posits 'progression', then demonstrates the opposite, simply because it has believed that technology is enough to anchor and sustain the human unit. Anthropology and even a more robust sociology quickly reveal the reasons why Humpty Dumpty got into trouble.

Quick social-emotional inventory people—1) How did a demographic (Generation Next) with so much going for it in the first world west (arguably more than any previous generation); 'education', technology, potential for success, health care, long life expectancy (the list goes on), become so fragile? 2) How did such a fragile psyche end up in such a precarious position? 3) What made Humpty fall—and who pushed? 4) Why can't all the 'king's men' put him back together again? 5) Finally, to where do 'kings' go to find solutions? Tough questions for any government!

The other disturbing emergence is that this well-resourced demographic could invest their resources and talents in a vast array or worthy causes - **Stopping or challenging** child soldiers, people trafficking—child slavery—sex slavery—Poverty, or importantly saving the environment (of which drugs contribute to decline), and the list goes on. Yet, seemingly (at least from social media data volume) a considerable cohort of Gen Next choose to invest instead in the promotion of addiction exacerbating and culturally disintegrating use of psychotropic toxins.

This newly touted 'human right' is the one that is getting the 'pop-culture' traction?



My 'right' to privacy, autonomy and health care???

1. European Drug Report 2014

2. Ibid

3 Medical Marijuana's Public Health Lessons—Implications for Retail Marijuana in Colorado

4 ICC Illicit Drug Report 2013-14

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THE EMERGING NARRATIVE OF DALGARNO

Next Phase—It is exciting to have developed and implemented a strategic plan and watch it unfold over the last four years. Whilst some of our aims were not quite realized, much has been done, and by so few! Resources are always key to seeing projects and strategies rolled out and Dalgarno has been enabled by some incredibly hardworking people and the timely receipt of bequests from long standing patrons. Being a 'lay' institute means we rely heavily on the generosity of volunteers and faithful donors. Our growth into the national space has been based heavily on this demographic. Whilst we do pride ourselves on looking after our unpaid staff, we do want to recognise again, their wonderful contribution. Jo, Wayne, Derek, Ross as well as our Board Ellen, Grant, Tom, Ian, Linda, Dave, Greg, Jan and Don.... **THANK YOU ALL** for your fine contribution during our first phase.

As the Dalgarno narrative continues to emerge we are looking to further our influence in key education and resourcing areas. Our members will be vital in growing this and we look to them to continue their support and input!

Campus Development—We continue to look for support in our VCampuses. Bendigo and Hunter Valley Coordinators are keen for support and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to offer their support, particularly community engagement. In our next phase we are also keen to open a VCampus in either QLD or W.A. We have been in conversation with some folks, but are open to suggestions.

Contact Operations Manager Dylan Redman at operations@dalgaroinstitute.org.au

Bendigo Hall—Exciting news! All Titles for both the building and freehold land are now registered in our name! This is a huge win for us and one thought impossible only a few years ago. In our next phase we are looking to have the caveat lifted from the property so that we can actualize the asset and invest in the next growth phase. Initial dialogue around this is exciting and could see an entire new phase of operation with the Bendigo Campus servicing Central Victoria. More on this in the future.

P.A.D.D.— We have opened up dialogue with a potential young champion for our People Against Drink Driving space. She has a great story to tell and is keen to get a message of prevention out... More on that to come!

21 Be There—Continues to bubble along well with our consortium growing. The www.21bethere.org.au site is a great one-stop shop for info on alcohol impact on young and the MLDA National Conversation. Check out the blog!

ONLINE AND GROWING— Watch this space! New platform coming in 2015-16!

Board— Are you a strategic thinker with skills sets in operations, finance, education or administration? Well you might very well be the person we are looking for to join our Board for our next phase of development! We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us on 1300 975 002 or email the Secretary at director@dalgaroinstitute.org.au

Education: Update

Sporting Space—Our sporting club workshops, due to our capacity to promote, have seen little application over the last years. Recently clubs have approached us to do some work with local Aussie Rules footy clubs. Our 'Don't Drop the Ball' and 'Taking Charge' seminars are aimed at creating awareness and opening up dialogue around better team and player well-being.

Partae Girl Curriculum
The ATOM collaboration is

progressing and the **Partae Girl** DVD Resource with new additional curriculum included is available on line. To order your complete set go to <http://www.theeducationshop.com.au/shop/product.asp?plD=4790&clD=9> Or you can purchase from Dalgarno by emailing education@dalgaroinstitute.org.au

I Wish I Never— As you know from our last newsletter, any we have been rolling out our full curriculum, 'I wish I never...' with the new prospectus. Our curriculum is starting to move with our new Education Manager 'kicking some goals'. Private school groups are liking the format and con-

tent, and consequently are keen to give their students these resiliency developing resources that go beyond 'Just say no to drugs'. Sadly, some poorly understood 'harm reduction' ideology is keeping government sector schools away from prevention space. We are looking to change that perception. Our next development is to bring our prospectus inline with developing National Curriculum Frameworks...a big job!

Social Media

We encourage all you 'on-liners' to get behind us on social media.

Check out the following and 'engage'!

Twitter: if you're on Twitter

follow us at...

NO Brainer

[@NOBrainer_drugs](https://twitter.com/NOBrainer_drugs)

Don't Legalise Drugs

[@NoDecriminalize](https://twitter.com/NoDecriminalize)

21 Be There

[@21BeThere](https://twitter.com/21BeThere)

FaceBook: 'Like us' at

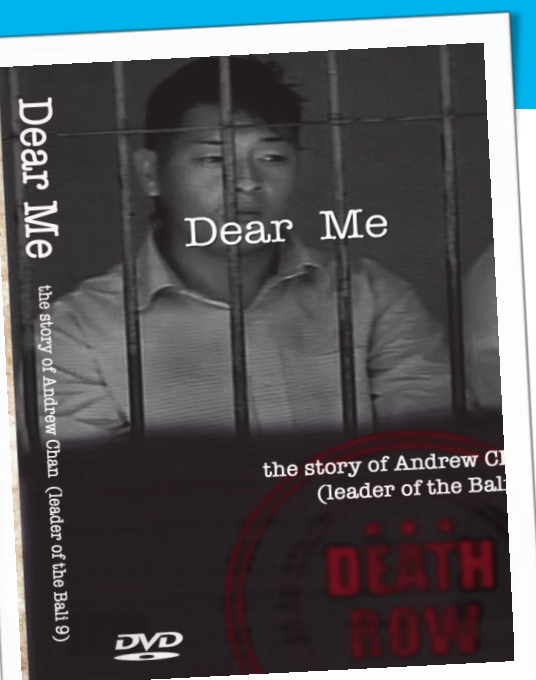
[https://](https://www.facebook.com/DalgarnosNB)

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CHAN & SUKUMARAN



ON SALE Now \$22 Non-members. \$11 Members

The ever manipulative pro-drug lobby have zero sense of decency! Within (quite literally) hours of the execution of Andrew and Myuran, these drug promoting activists were using this tragic event to peddle there drug legalizing message. The utter unscrupulous and tawdry spin by the pro-drug lobbyists has attempted to hijack another forum for genuine compassion, all to further their substance promoting agenda! Shameful and reckless!

Balance and reason are often the first casualties of propaganda. In this instance that is tragic for two key reasons: 1) The legacy of these reformed drug traffickers is now being disregarded - a stellar and remarkable legacy of transformation, rehabilitation and restoration and 2) In the 'noise' of 'outrage' (on both sides of this issue) we are seeing a convenient omitting of the fact that it was our lack of war on drugs in this nation that all but ensured these men both completely underestimated risk and completely disregarded the law.

Let's be clear most behaviour is learned ,and therefore taught! So we must ask the question, what messages and instruction was informing the behaviour of these men who conspired, recruited and then blithely engaged in trafficking illicit drugs (psychotropic and addictive toxins) into a geo-

graphic zone that states, 'we will execute those engaged in such practices'?

Where were the mechanisms in Australia to rehabilitate these young men? Where were the mechanisms to reduce demand, stop supply and help cease drug use in these young men? Instead were they modelled to, or even told that *'it's your right to party', 'drug laws are stupid', and 'what's going to happen to you anyway - a slap on the wrist?'* What did they see and hear? What did they refuse to see or hear? Who was educating these wayward young men? It would appear, the drug liberalisers have something to answer for in this 'educational' space!

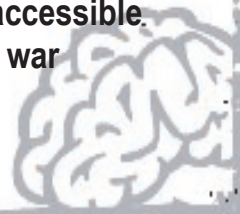
The death penalty is final, its means irreversible and this is to say the very least, egregious! What is not acknowledged is the fact that these young men got ten more years to live—a wonderful gift. The austere sentence ended up granting them, a gift they fully took advantage of, to **CHANGE**. These men become anti-drug activists, rehabilitation kings and humanity restoring mentors. No longer were drugs 'a right' or even an option. These men now wanted all who would listen to know that drug use is not merely dangerous for your life expectancy - but much more!

Chan and Sukumaran ***lived a new message***, that drugs are a blight, a cancer and NO human being should be subject to their enslaving and life diminishing properties - These young men ***now*** got this and were investing in what all Australians should be investing in: setting up environments, vehicles and arenas where young people are resilient, healthy and strong - a space in where they don't need to engage substances to 'get by' or 'feel something better'.

The thing that became incredibly tragic and wasteful in all this, is the missed and conspicuously important opportunity to make these men's LIVES count even more! Indeed, clemency could have been granted under the existing laws, however, to me it goes beyond mercy to embracing wisdom. The commutation of the sentence of these new pillars of moral and social courage from death, to life in prison would have been simply one of the best investments in the future of young people in the entire south-east Asian region. The model and message that Andrew and Myuran could spread would have only added to the untold good they had already achieved as REFORMED and REHABILITATED ex-drug traffickers/users!

Please, don't allow the pro-drug chaos peddlers to cheapen the incredibly sad loss of these champions of the anti-drug cause, by making drug use even more acceptable, available and accessible in this 'entitled' nation! This is not a time to promote drug use—it is a time to start the war on drugs, so we never see this loss repeated again!

Shane Varcoe—Executive Director



Spotlight on—Advocacy

The Fence or The Ambulance

Joseph Malines

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed, though to walk near its crest was so pleasant:

But over its terrible edge there had slipped a duke and many a peasant; so the people said something would have to be done. But their projects did not at all tally:

Some said, "Put a fence around the edge of the cliff" Some, "An ambulance down in the valley." But the cry for the ambulance carried the day. For it spread to the neighbouring city: A fence may be useful or not, it is true, but each heart became brimful of pity, for those who had slipped o'er that dangerous cliff,

And the dwellers in highway and alley gave dollars or gave cents, not to put up a fence,

But an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is alright if you're careful," they said, "and if folks even slip or are dropping, it isn't the slipping that hurts them so much as the shock down below-when they're stopping,"

So day after day when these mishaps occurred, quick forth would the rescuers sally to pick up the victims who fell off the cliff, with their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old man remarked, "it's a marvel to me that people give far more attention to repairing results than to stopping the cause, when they'd much better aim at prevention.

Let us stop at its source all this mischief, cried he. "Come neighbours and friends, let us rally:

If the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense with the ambulance down in the valley."

But a sensible few who are practical too, will not bear with such nonsense much longer.

They believe that prevention is better than cure and their party will soon be the stronger. Encourage them, then with your purse, voice and pen and (while other philanthropists dally)

They will scorn all pretence, and erect a stout fence on the cliff that hangs over the valley

Injecting room push...again!

The 'usual suspects' of the Yarra City Council were at it again, using a spike in drug use to promote their drug liberalising agenda. Yet another attempt to open a 'shooting gallery' in their precinct was wisely denied by the State government. Dalgarno congratulated and affirmed the The Minister for Health, along with local Police and Retail Traders Association on their opposition to this agenda. We also forwarded them evidence based resources to bolster their position on this ineffective and (by international standards) illegal operation.

YOUR SHOUT Conference—

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Alcohol Flagship "Action on Alcohol" is staging a very important conference on the impact of alcohol availability on local government communities. Dalgarno is the only NFP on this working group and it has been a privilege to help craft this event, which will go a long way to getting both strategic and statutory planners in the room to discuss the need for action to change planning laws that will enable local governments to consider familial and social impact issues in planning around liquor licensing. The YOUR SHOUT Conference is a vital event to be staged on 23rd July 2015 in Maroon-dah for details go to:

www.karralyka@maroon-dah.vic.gov.au

UNGASS 2016—It is very important to note that since early this year and through until 2016 the United Nations General Assembly Special Session of Illicit Drugs is being conducted. This scheduled review looks at international drug conventions and discusses all areas of drug policy, including: whether or not to liberalise, decriminalise or even legalise some drugs and drug use. The process also looks at key issues such as: Prevention, Supply and Demand Reduction issues, along with Recovery processes. The Dalgarno Institute is now a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs. Although nominated and interviewed for a position on a consultation group for Oceania, we were disappointingly overlooked in favour of a pro-drug liberaliser in a questionable appointment. We have prepared and

are finalising a DVD presentation and PDF resource for this arena, but more so for the Australian review of the National Drug Strategy (see below)

Medicinal Marijuana issue continues to gain traction—emotion, not science and best medical practice is driving this. Dalgarno made a significant written submission with 100's of pages of evidence based data expressing concerns for 'self-medication' emergencies of this dangerous substance to both Victorian Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health. The response was one that confirmed a lack of regard for best evidence and practice. We also made written submission to the VLRC (Victoria Law Reform Commission) consultation on 'Medicinal' cannabis and had affiliates attend the sparsely patronised Melbourne consultation. The 'consultations' also confirmed our suspicion that the agenda to loosen laws to enable passage of an ill-advised bill is a foregone conclusion and is proceeding despite the evidence. Further representation to the minister of health was made about our concerns on the legitimacy and fairness of these public 'consultations'. The Dalgarno Institute continues to compassionately support all those suffering with demanding and devastating health issues and are completely behind the full and properly followed AMA and TGA best practice protocols for developing good medicine. We, however, continue to oppose measures that negate best health and care practices (particularly for children) and also challenge any mechanism that enables further liberalisation of this dangerous drug. We have produced a FENCE BUILDER CD with significant data on this subject. This can be obtained by emailing director@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au

ICE Task Force—The Dalgarno Institute was approached to be part of a Round Table in Sydney on 22nd of May, we were able to send a delegate to this particular event to not only table our views, but glean a sense of what is being said/told at these forums.

New Projects—Prevention is the KEY!

Prevention: Time For Culture Shift DVD—

The Dalgarno Institute has just completed this major project which commenced in late 2014. This DVD Resource (pictured below) is a presentation given on why it is now time to focus on **PREVENTION** in the Australian drug policy space and the need to be more deliberate and strategically focused on the all but forgotten Demand Reduction 'Pillar' of our National Drug Strategy.

This resources has a 114 minute and 44 minute presentation, along with PDF and PowerPoint resources for recipients to use. It is being distributed throughout Australia to key stakeholders in community, government, health, police and education sectors, including the ICE Task Force.

You can order you copy by emailing admin@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au or calling 1300 975 002 (Cost \$30 including p&h for non-Dalgarno members or only \$15 for members)



New DVD Advocacy & Education Resource for All Australians

'IT'S MY RIGHT!' - Dalgarno is about to release a graphic novel style comic strip depicting an interview with a late teen illicit drug user. Based on a number of conversations people have had around this

emerging attitude. It is in final stages and will be released on our YouTube channel in the coming months—STAY TUNED!

30 Years of Harm Minimisation—How Far Have We Come?

- This is our latest and most comprehensive version of this paper. Extensive work and research has gone into this critique of the past 30 years of the Harm Minimisation Platform that our AOD policies have been interpreted/run under. This literature review and investigative paper not only exposes the many flaws in poor interpretation and use of this vehicle. More importantly, it accurately unpacks some of the erroneous or misused data that attempts to promote 'success' of many of the failed aspects Harm Reduction ONLY use of the Harm Minimisation framework.

Australia adopts Swedish model of supply reduction on NPS (Novel Psychoactive Substances)

The 'trick' with these 'chemical configurations' is that, whilst attempting to 'reconstruct' the components of current illicit drugs such as cannabis and amphetamines, the 'chemists' can change just some components in the equation and 'technically' it is not an illegal drug under the previous legislation. Of course, attempting to identify and legislate against the ever growing number of these 'cocktails' is both time consuming and inevitably always in playing 'catch up'.

Some years ago the Swedes worked out a model of ban and seizure of common chemicals used in manufacturing these 'legal highs'. It then put the onus on the purchaser/importer to prove the chemicals being acquired weren't being used for drug making purposes. It meant the chemicals would sit in customs until the importer came forward with evidence that these chemicals were to be used for benign purposes. The Swedish Customs seizure success saw very few (almost nil) importers come forward.

This system enabled 1) Less policing 2) no crime to follow up, simply a seize and destroy model 3) all importers who didn't present to claim were automatically put on a watch list enabling police to better monitor suspicious behaviours.

Australia has now embraced essentially the same model—"Under the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Psychoactive Substance and Other Measures) Bill 2014 Australian Customs and Boarder Protection Services, officers will be able to size NPS and substances presented as alternatives to illicit drugs."¹

(¹. Taken from "About The House"—Feb 2015 page 36)

